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Pickle-Chiffon Pie

Based on the children's book by
Jolly Roger Bradfield

Book by: Jennifer Adams, Jeffrey Artzi, Michael J. Bobbitt, and Daniel Tenenbaum

Music and Lyrics By
Jeffrey Artzi and Daniel Tenenbaum

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ONLY

LARGE CAST (YOUTH ACADEMY) VERSION
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Setting:

In the Kingdom of Bushelpeck, a fairytale land near the Wonderweird Forest during the Festival of All Cukes.

Characters (Large Cast Version):

Willoughbye	Herald	Snozzle	Sous Chefs Sue (2)
Lauralai	Lady Rose	Giant	Kitchen Staffers (2)
Sunnyskye	Lady Kerri	Mouse	Villagers (6+)
Bernard	Lady Sherry	Witch	Servant
Musselbaum	Lady Terry	Dragon	
Wellred	Lady Jerri		

Scenes:

Prologue

Act One:

Scene One: Center of Village, preparing for Festival of Cukes

Scene Two: Castle Kitching and Dining Hall

Scene Three: Inside Castle and Castle Courtyard

Scene Four: At the edge of the Wonderweird Forest

Scene Five: Inside Castle and Castle Courtyard

Act Two:

Scene One: Edge of the Wonderweird Forest

Scene Two: Deep inside the Wonderweird Forest

Scene Three: Castle Courtyard and Inside Castle

Song List:

1.	ONCE UPON A TIME	Herald, Sunnyskye, Villagers, All
2.	FESTIVAL OF CUKES	Villagers, All
3.	TWO OF A KIND	Musselbaum, Wellred
4.	FESTIVAL OF CUKES (Reprise)	Villagers
5.	FESTIVAL OF CUKES (Reprise #2)	Ladies in Waiting
6.	FESTIVAL OF CUKES (Reprise #3)	Villagers
7.	PICKLE-CHIFFON PIE	Lauralai, Sous Chefs, Kitchen Staffers, All
8.	JUST BERNARD	Bernard
9.	PICKLE-CHIFFON PIE (Reprise)	Lauralai, Wellred, Willoughbye, All
10.	FIRST WORLD, SECONDHAND PROBLEM	Villagers
11.	A CONTEST	Willoughbye, Herald, Princes, All
12.	A CONTEST (Reprise)	All
13.	MOST WONDERFUL THING	Royal Family, Princes, All
14.	THE PLAN	Sunnyskye, Villagers, Ladies in Waiting
15.	THE REST IS UP TO YOU	Willoughbye, Lauralai, Sunnyskye, Bernard
16.	ONCE UPON A TIME (Reprise)	Herald, Villagers
17.	FOREST THEME (1)	Musselbaum
18.	LOOK A BIT MORE	Musselbaum, Herald, Ladies in Waiting
19.	FOREST THEME (2)	Wellred
20.	3.1415!	Wellred, Villagers, Herald

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| 21. | ONCE UPON A TIME (Reprise #2) | Narrator |
| 22. | FOREST THEME (3) | Bernard |
| 23. | THERE'S A REASON | Bernard, Sunnyskye, Herald |
| 24. | FOREST THEME (4) | Musselbaum and Wellred |
| 25. | HEADING FOR A WEDDING | Villagers, Ladies in Waiting, Lauralai,
Musselbaum, Wellred |
| 26. | THE REST IS UP TO YOU (Reprise) | Lauralai, Sunnyskye |
| 27. | HEADING FOR A WEDDING (Reprise) | Villagers, Herald, Servant, Musselbaum, Wellred |
| 28. | A HUMBLE PRINCE | Bernard, Snuzzle Children |
| 29. | HEAR MY VOICE | Sunnyskye |
| 30. | MOST WONDERFUL THING (Reprise) | Willoughby, Bernard, All |

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ACT ONE

PROLOGUE: As the actors playing VILLAGERS, HERALD, SUNNYSKYE, and ENSEMBLE arrive to tell the story. Perhaps they are still putting on costumes/makeup and stretching as the action begins. The HERALD picks up his/her guitar and starts strumming into the acoustic guitar rift, which leads to the melody of the verse)

“ONCE UPON A TIME” *(Herald, Villagers, Sunnyskye)*

HERALD
AS YOU ALL KNOW FROM READING SO MANY OF THESE KINDS OF STORIES
THEY TAKE PLACE IN A TIME AND A LAND THAT IS FAR, FAR AWAY
LET’S QUEUE UP A QUEEN, A KING AND HIS QUANDARY
A TALE WE PORTRAY HERE TODAY

VILLAGER ONE
WITH THE KING AND THE QUEEN LIVED THEIR DAUGHTER A...

VILLAGER TWO
BOLD AND BRIGHT PRINCESS

SUNNYSKYE
That’s me!

HERALD
THE FACTS OF HER FICTION I’M READY RIGHT NOW TO RELAY

VILLAGER TWO
HER STORY IS FRESH, WITH PLENTY TO HARVEST

HERALD
ITS LESSONS WON’T LEAD YOU ASTRAY

[CHORUS] ALL
THIS TALE MAY SEEM A SILLY ONE
WITH WORDS THAT OFTEN RHYME
BUT CAN WE LEARN A LITTLE BIT
FROM ONCE UPON TIME?

VILLAGER THREE
NOT TOO FAR FROM HER CASTLE YOU’LL FIND AN INCREDIBLE FOREST

HERALD
THERE’S NO SIGHT OF SNOW WHITE OR A TIN MAN, EXCUSE THE CLICHÉ

VILLAGER FOUR
THE FOREST YOU’LL FIND FRONT PAGE TO THIS STORY

SUNNYSKYE
WITH WONDERS SURE BOUND TO HOLD SWAY

HERALD
SO ENOUGH WITH THE INTRO, IT'S TIME TO BEGIN THE BEGUINING
OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO AND THE PEOPLE WE'LL MEET ON THE WAY
THIS GROUP THAT WE SEE, THEY GATHER TOGETHER
AND WHY, WE'LL DISPLAY STRAIGHTAWAY

[CHORUS] ALL
THIS TALE MAY SEEM A SILLY ONE
WITH WORDS THAT OFTEN RHYME
BUT CAN WE LEARN A LITTLE BIT
FROM ONCE UPON TIME?

THIS TALE MAY SEEM A SILLY ONE
WITH WORDS THAT OFTEN RHYME
BUT CAN WE LEARN A LITTLE BIT
FROM ONCE UPON TIME?

(SUNNYSKYE exits, others remain)

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SCENE ONE: In the center of the village. VILLAGERS prepare for the Festival of All Cukes (e.g. carrying baskets of cucumbers, arranging flowers, hanging decor, etc.)

“FESTIVAL OF CUKES”
(Villagers, All)

VILLAGERS
IT’S THE BUSHHELPECK FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL OF CUKES
GRAB YOUR CUCUMBERS
TO STAR IN THE SHOW
IT’S TIME FOR THE HARVEST
AS ALWAYS A THRILL
WE GATHER EVERYTHING THAT WE GROW

VILLAGER ONE *(with a half-empty basket of cucumbers)*
Once upon a time...

VILLAGER TWO *(with his/her own half-empty basket of cucumbers)*
What’s with the ‘once upon a time’? How come it’s never ‘twice upon a time’?

VILLAGER THREE
Or even ‘thrice upon a time’?

VILLAGER ONE
As long as it ends ‘Happily ever after,’ why does it matter?

VILLAGER TWO
Yeah, you’re right. But you know it’s all about the cucumbers. Crisp, fragrant, and just ripe enough for pickling. Full dills are OK, but half sours? Faghetaboutit!

VILLAGER THREE
A personally prefer a fine pickle-brine wine with a cucumber blossom floral note. The Festival of Cukes exemplifies the versatility of this fine vegetable!

VILLAGERS
IT’S THE BUSHHELPECK FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL OF CUKES
GRAB YOUR CUCUMBERS
IF ONLY A FEW
A SKIMPIER HARVEST
THAN ANY YEAR PAST
YET NOW’S THE TIME TO PARTY-YAHOO!

(They finish hanging a sign that reads “The Festival of All Cukes”)

VILLAGER ONE

(reading the banner) The Festival of All Cukes - a symbol of life for all!

VILLAGERS

All Hail Bushelpeck!

VILLAGER FOUR

Seems everything's in place to impress the Royal Family when they descend from their castle set on the highest peak of Bushelpeck. Ah, if only to live like that!

VILLAGER FIVE

Well, not exactly everything will impress them. I toiled over my meager cucumber crop all year.

VILLAGERS *(Variously)*

I had a rough time with my cucumber crop, too./We all have./It's been a tough year on all of us/Me too.

VILLAGER FOUR

Though my crop is slight, I can only hope that the King *will* notice my unblemished gherkins and select them for the Queen's delectable Pickle-Chiffon Pie!

VILLAGER THREE

My prize winning cucumis sativus will make the rest of you turn green with envy!

VILLAGER TWO

More like green and gassy!

VILLAGER ONE *(to Villager Four)*

Your cucumbers look like scrawny zucchinis!

VILLAGER THREE *(also to Villager Four)*

I'd say you're at the wrong festival.

VILLAGER TWO

Yeah, Lolla-pa-loser was last month.

VILLAGER FOUR

Well, I never!

VILLAGER FIVE

Gosh! I sure hope the King finds some of our cukes suitable for the royal Pickle-Chiffon Pie, or it won't be much of a festival at all.

VILLAGERS *(variously)*

Mine seem suitable! So do mine! Take a bite! Only if you try mine!

(They each take a bite of someone else's cucumber, depleting the crops even more)

[(when dialogue is complete, start track for Part 2)]

IN UNISON

Delicious!

“FESTIVAL OF CUKES, PART 2”
(Villagers, All)

ALL

IT'S THE BUSHELPECK FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL OF CUKES
GRAB YOUR CUCUMBERS
THIS SHINDIG'S RENOWNED
WE'LL SHOUT FROM THE ROOFTOPS
BE HEARD FAR AND WIDE
INVITING EVERYBODY AROUND

IT'S THE BUSHELPECK FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL OF CUKES
GRAB YOUR CUCUMBERS
BOW DOWN TO THE GROUND
TO PRAY FOR A PAYOFF
THE KING WILL CONVEY

CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THE
WINNER IS CROWNED
CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THE
WINNER IS CROWNED!

(They continue to go about their business of preparing for the Royal Family.)

PRINCE MUSSELBAUM and PRINCE WELLRED, brothers, enter with baskets overflowing with cucumbers.)

WELLRED

Whew! A land far far away is much farther than one typically conceives.

MUSSELBAUM

Really? It's only been a simple stroll over the grassy knoll, just around the river bend, past the Wonderweird Forest! Can't you handle eleven steps?

WELLRED

Eleven steps? We've been trudging for hours. Did you lose count again?

MUSSELBAUM

It's all those big numbers after ten that give me trouble...counting is hard. I forgot why we're even on this journey. I'd much rather be pumping iron.

WELLRED

We're here because of father's debt to King Willoughby. He dispatched us from our Kingdom of Dill to deliver the spoils.

MUSSELBAUM

Spoils? Our crops aren't spoiled at all!

WELLRED

Listen, genius. An alternative definition to "spoils" is...Ah, forget it!

MUSSELBAUM

I thought we were coming because the Princess of Bushelpeck is old enough to marry and the search is on for a winning and top-notch Prince! And certainly no one is winner or notchier than me.

WELLRED

Gramatically, it should be I, of course. But it will be me.

MUSSELBAUM

I'm confused. I meant "I," not you.

WELLRED

You were born confused. I must make a good impression on King Willoughby. So, here I am with you dragging our bounty of cucumbers across many kingdoms as a gift to Bushelpeck. Musselbaum, this tremendous payload of cucumbers took every ounce of my might.

MUSSELBAUM

It's no heavier than your library books, Wellred.

WELLRED

But, the distance from our Kingdom to Bushelpeck is so so so so so so so much farther than from the library to the palace.

MUSSELBAUM

Gabba goo goo witty bitty bum bum. Da baby don't wanna cawwy the itty bitty cucumber?

WELLRED

No one would ever believe we're identical twins.

MUSSELBAUM

Yes, 'cause one of us is completely different.

"TWO OF A KIND"
(Musselbaum and Wellred)

WELLRED

And more princely.

MUSSELBAUM

Exactly...

I'M ONE OF A KIND

WELLRED
LIKE NO OTHER

MUSSELBAUM
JUST CHECK OUT MY LONG WAVY HAIR

WELLRED
YEP, ONE OF A KIND
THAT'S MY BROTHER
TOO BAD THERE'S NO MUSCLE
(motioning to MUSSELBAUM'S head)
UP THERE

MUSSELBAUM
SINCE I WAS YOUNG, YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT I BRUNG

WELLRED
THE WORD, BRO', IS BROUGHT, I'M ASTUTE AND SELF TAUGHT

MUSSELBAUM
DON'T CHANGE THE TUNE

WELLRED
WELL, YOU'RE SUCH A BUFFOON

MUSSELBAUM
THEN WHY DO THE MAIDENS ALL SWOON?

WELLRED
I'M ONE OF A KIND

MUSSELBAUM
LIKE NO OTHER

WELLRED
I CAN SOLVE ANY PROBLEM WITH EASE

MUSSELBAUM
YEP, ONE OF A KIND
THAT'S MY BROTHER
IT'S ENOUGH WITH THE BRAINS, I MEAN JEEZ

WELLRED
DON'T PICK A FIGHT, WHEN YOU KNOW I'LL BE RIGHT

MUSSELBAUM
GLAD TO STEP IN THE RING AND LET YOU TAKE A SWING

WELLRED
I KNOW A FEW JUKES

MUSSELBAUM
WELL, THEN, PUT UP YOUR DUKES

WELLRED
RATHER JUST FOCUS ON CUKES

(The brothers battle in a cucumber battle)

BOTH
WE'RE TWO OF A KIND
LIKE NO OTHERS
SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST RUN-OF-THE-MILL
YES, TWO OF A KIND

MUSSELBAUM
US TWO BROTHERS

WELLRED
WE TWO BROTHERS
(he notices Musselbaum was grammatically incorrect)

BOTH
TWO KIN FROM A KINGDOM CALLED DILL

WE'RE TWO OF A KIND
LIKE NO OTHERS
MUCH MORE THAN JUST RUN-OF-THE-MILL
YES, TWO OF A KIND

MUSSELBAUM
US TWO BROTHERS

WELLRED *(enunciating "we" to Musselbaum)*
WE TWO BROTHERS

BOTH
TWO KIN FROM A KINGDOM CALLED DILL

WE'RE TWO OF A KIND
LIKE NO OTHERS
MUCH MORE THAN JUST RUN-OF-THE-MILL
YES, TWO OF A KIND

(both emphatically on "We" together)

WE TWO BROTHERS
TWO KIN FROM A KINGDOM CALLED
KIN FROM A KINGDOM CALLED
KIN FROM A KINGDOM CALLED DILL!

(The VILLAGERS and PRINCES notice each other and interact for the first time)

WELLRED

Look...villagers!

VILLAGER ONE

Look...Princes!

MUSSELBAUM

Wellred, does no one bow when royalty appears?

WELLRED

Let it go, *(he makes air quotes)* “bro”...*(to the villagers)* Cuke anyone?

(The VILLAGERS freeze and turn to the Princes.)

VILLAGERS *(like zombies)*

Ooooo...cucumbers! We love Cucumbers.

(PRINCE BERNARD enters, carrying one cucumber wrapped in a pink bow.)

VILLAGER ONE *(to Wellred)*

How on earth did you get your crop to be so plentiful?

WELLRED

They are aplenty in the unparalleled and prosperous Kingdom of Dill, where our father reigns supreme.

VILLAGER FIVE

Our harvest is so sparse this year.

MUSSELBAUM

That cucumber looks like a scrawny zucchini!

BERNARD

During this festive time, we should all be kind and joyous. And, besides, I’m sure King Willoughby cares more about quality than quantity.

VILLAGER THREE

Compared to what these princes bring, my cukes seem like weeds and have no chance for inclusion in the King’s pies. Even Prince Bernard from the Kingdom of Chard, brings a cucumber that is far superior.

BERNARD

No, no, no...this fine specimen is not meant for the competition. This is but a kind gesture...a bequest for Princess Sunnyskye, and her family.

WELLRED

Ahhh, yes...Princess Sunnyskye, for whom we have traversed a considerable distance to entreat. She is metaphorically as sweet as molasses. Her iridescent eyes have pupils as precise as decimal points, her phosphorescence shimmers like the lunar luminescence on a long lake, and a smile so warm it could melt butter.

MUSSELBAUM

Ahhh...yes, the warm butter is like a big moon river melting in her hair. And butter is delicious and good for muscle growth.

BERNARD (*shrugs*)

Huh? Well, anyway...she is pretty incredible!

MUSSELBAUM AND WELLRED

Just like me. We're the perfect match. No, she and I are the perfect match. Stop copying me. Stop copying me. I'm telling father!

BERNARD (*to all*)

Please friends, if we're fortunate, the Princess will bestow her favor on one of us when she's ready to wed. For now, we can only hope that our cucumbers will swim in the Queen's bails of brine, pickling themselves into a tasty frenzy. Patience and providence, my fellows. For now, let us enjoy the festival!

ALL

All hail Bushelpeck!

"FESTIVAL OF CUKES (Reprise)," Polka

VILLAGERS

IT'S THE BUSHHELPECK FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL OF CUKES
GRAB YOUR CUCUMBERS
COULD THIS BE MY YEAR?
THE KING'S ALWAYS CHOOSEY
'BOUT WHAT'S IN HIS PIE
HE'S JUDGE AND JURY AND HE DRAWS NEAR
HE DRAWS NEAR

(They dance the "Bushelpeck Polka," the traditional dance at the Festival of All Cukes. It is nothing like an actual Polka. It's a mix of modern club steps and traditional courtyard dances. KING WILLOUGHBYE, QUEEN LAURALAI, PRINCESS SUNNYSKYE, along with her LADIES IN WAITING (LADY KERRI, LADY SHERRY, LADY TERRY, LADY JERRI AND LADY ROSE) arrive. Everything freezes!)

WILLOUGHBYE

Why does no one bow when royalty appears?

SUNNYSKYE

Don't be such a fuddy-duddy, Daddy! Let's dance!

(LAURALAI, SUNNYSKYE and WILLOUGHBYE join in the Polka. The Ladies in Waiting, mingle among the Villagers, learning about the paucity of the cucumber harvest. While MUSSELBAUM and WELLRED jockey for position to dance with SUNNYSKYE, the SUNNYSKYE is spun around and ends up paired with BERNARD. While dancing, BERNARD and SUNNYSKYE both make the same misstep. SUNNYSKYE steps on his foot.)

BERNARD

Ouch!

SUNNYSKYE

Oh. A gazillion apologies. The cobbler made my new Cuke shoes out of petrified wood from the Wonderweird Forest.

SUNNYSKYE kicks off the shoes

SUNNYSKYE

There, that's better.

BERNARD

My toe accepts your request for forgiveness. I have 6 more, I mean 12 more...I mean...I've got enough toes for dancing.

SUNNYSKYE

It's that same misstep we made in Duchess Dewberry's "Darwinian Disco" class.

BERNARD *(imitating the Duchess)*

'Let your soul shake your booty!'

SUNNYSKYE *(imitating the Duchess)*

'Get down tonight, 'cause that's the way I like it. Again, 5-6-7-8!'

WILLOUGHBYE

STOP DANCING!!!

(Everyone freezes mid-step.)

A famished prancing King makes a terrible cucumber judge!

LAURALAI

Uh oh! Grouchy King, everyone. Grouchy King. No one wants new taxes assessed, right? Please prepare your offerings. Chop chop!

BERNARD

I brought you a cucumber. Planted it myself and tended to it daily. See there, I wrapped it in a pink bow - your favorite color.

SUNNYSKYE

Bernard, you are so sweet. You have always been so courteously kind. Pink is...so pretty. Yellow is awesome, but pink is so...

LAURALAI

Sunnyskye, please. Your father has that “beheading” look in his eye.

SUNNYSKYE

(Sighing) Again?

WILLOUGHBYE

Sunnyskye!

(LAURALAI and SUNNYSKYE hurry and take their places alongside WILLOUGHBYE at the judging table and everyone else slowly gathers around)

It is my pleasure to once again serve as “Royal Cuc-umpire.” Bring forth your crops, for the judging will commence in two minutes!

***“FESTIVAL OF CUKES” Reprise #2
(Ladies in Waiting)***

LADIES IN WAITING
IT’S THE BUSHELPECK FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL OF CUKES
WITH SO VERY FEW NEW CUKES TO BE FOUND

LADY TERRY
MAKE HASTE, WARN THE PRINCESS

LADY KERRI
HER DAD WILL BE MAD

LADY JERRI
BAD NEWS ‘ROUND WHICH HE’S BOUND TO BE WOUND

LADY SHERRY
It ain’t gonna be pretty!

LADY JERRI
Here we go!

LADY TERRY
(calling her over, trying to be discreet) Psst, Princess.

SUNNYSKYE
What’s wrong Lady Terry?

LADY TERRY

Well, we can't be completely sure...

LADY KERRI

But the cucumber baskets we've seen this morning are...*(to Jerri)* Lady Jerri, how do you say it?

LADY JERRI

(to Kerri) Say what?

LADY KERRI

(reminding her) The baskets! *(to Sunnyskye)*...are...

LADY TERRY

Let's say... 'less than we'd like'?

LADY JERRI

Downright Deficient!

LADY KERRI

Embarrassingly Inedible.

LADY SHERRY

Packed with poor, puny, pint-sized, and pitifully imperfect produce! The King is going to go out of his gourd when he sees this paltry presentation.

LADY TERRY

Shush Sherry!

LADY SHERRY

What? It's true!

SUNNYSKYE

Surely, it's not that meager?

LADY TERRY

We just wanted to prepare you Princess.

LADY KERRI

It's not looking like it'll be even close to our most festive Festival ever.



LADY SHERRY

But knowing the King's temper, once he sees this crop, it *may* be our most memorable!

LADY ROSE

Princess! Princess! *(Runs through the crowd and up to the Princess with a basket on her head)* Look, I can wear this one like a hat!

LADIES

(groaning) Rose!

LADY ROSE

What? It was empty!

LADY KERRI

You can't wear a cucumber basket on your head! It's just not right.

LADY SHERRY

Have you lost your sense and sensibility?

(Ladies giggle at Rose, who is oblivious to their teasing)

SUNNYSKYE

(Laughing) I love it Lady Rose, perhaps it will be the newest fashion trend of the Festival? I'll have to get one myself. *(gives a look to her Ladies, who immediately run to find their own basket hats)*

LADY ROSE

Thank you, Princess!

LAURALAI

(calling to SUNNYSKYE) Sunnyskye, it's time for the "Crowning of the Cukes"! The Festival is set to begin!

LADY ROSE

Good luck Princess!

SUNNYSKYE

Thanks, I may need it...

(Sunnyskye rejoins her mother at the baskets as everyone takes their places for the unveiling. LAURALAI and SUNNYSKYE unveil the skimpy baskets.)

WILLOUGHBYE

...What in blazes!?! Where is my usual bounty of cucumbers?

LAURALAI

My dear, this year's poor weather conditions have made for a short supply.

WILLOUGHBYE

What?! These peasants provoke me. Off with their heads!

VILLAGERS

Ouch!

LAURALAI

Remember, dear, the Federal United Council of Kings outlawed beheading last year.

WILLOUGHBYE

Off with their...elbows!

VILLAGERS

Ouch!

LAURALAI

Amputations were outlawed last month.

SUNNYSKYE

And who would be left to tend to next season's crops without flexible appendages?

WILLOUGHBYE

Thunderation! Well...clip their fingernails!

VILLAGERS

Oh!

LAURALAI

My love, long fingernails are at the height of fashion.

WILLOUGHBYE

If I can't cut off bits and pieces, what's the point of being King? This is the "Great Cucumber Crisis of the Century"!

BERNARD

Your majesty, the tower in which I sleep, in the Kingdom of Chard, overlooks acres and acres of beets. Please, would you kindly accept...

WILLOUGHBYE

Silence! Pickles!

LAURALAI

My King really, really likes his pickles, Prince Bernard.

BERNARD

Then, I volunteer to travel far and wide, over hill and dale. Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat of dragon's breath stays this prince from finding more cucumbers to pickle for your precious pies.

SUNNYSKYE

What a courteously kind gesture. Look at the cucumber Bernard gave to me.

WILLOUGHBYE

One cucumber? With a pink bow, no less?

MUSSELBAUM AND WELLRED (*stepping forward*)

If it pleases the king...

WELLRED

We bring you overflowing baskets of cucumbers
as gifts from our Kingdom of Dill.
Our father, King Skordo
requested us to deliver to you.

MUSSELBAUM (*trying to keep up*)

...cucumbers...
...Dill....
...Skordo...
...pickles!

WILLOUGHBYE

Please tell Skordo that he is now forgiven for the five gold pieces that he owes me from our Tic-Tac-Toe tournament *and* that the Kingdom of Bushelpeck thanks him.

LAURALAI

That is terrific news, my king.

WILLOUGHBYE

But, even with supplementary cucumbers from Dill, there are not enough to last me through the season of Cukes. The Queen will seize *all* of the cucumber entries. So...I declare no victor! Until this quandary is fixed, you can all eat Zucchini!

(*VILLAGERS gasp*)

“FESTIVAL OF CUKES” Reprise #3
(Villagers)

VILLAGERS (*variously*)

IT'S THE BUSHELPECK FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL OF CUKES
WHAT A WAY TO WRECK THIS MOMENT OF MIRTH
WE'RE STUCK WITH ZUCCHINIS
THEY'RE MUSHY AND DRY
MOST VULGAR VEGGIE EVER ON EARTH!

VILLAGERS (*all*)

There goes mirth....Blech!

WILLOUGHBYE

To the palace!

(*They all start to exit.*)

SUNNYSKYE (*to the Princes*)

Perhaps you Princes can help us schlep these to the palace?

(*The princes all jump at the opportunity to help the royal family.*)

LAURALAI

Indeed!

Dear Princes, since you're traveling with us to the castle, will you kindly stay for supper?

Maybe you'll even have some ideas for unraveling the "Great Cucumber Crisis of the Century"!

MUSSELBAUM

Ooo...I have a yearning for roast unicorn!

WILLOUGHBYE *(to LAURALAI)*

This is the fourth time this month that you've invited Princes to my dinner table. And for what purpose?

LAURALAI

Shhh...lest you forget, our daughter is of marrying age. In a few days' time, she'll be a spinster and I'll be forced into considering a peasant for a son-in-law. One of these princes *will* become a member of *our* royal family. And *I* will get to plan a wedding!

WILLOUGHBYE

But, they have such insatiable appetites. I swear, if they eat all my pie *again*, I will pull their ears!

LAURALAI

Pulling ears was outlawed last Tuesday, dear. *(They both exit.)*

SUNNYSKYE *(to the Princes)*

My Ladies-In-Waiting, Kerri, Terry Sherry, Jerry...and Rose, can show you the way.

WELLRED

Are you sure they know where they're going? I'm certainly not going to ask for directions and if these ladies are anything like the ones in Dill, their map-reading proficiency leaves much to be desired.

SUNNYSKYE

They are perfectly capable of showing you how to get...

WELLRED

At least *I'm* an expert navigator. I know all the moss varieties from the Kingdom of Dill to the Gulf of Gourd. You know, where the moss grows tells you the direction of the sun. There's common haircap moss, silky forklet moss, swan's-neck thyme moss, common tamarisk moss (which is really anything but common), not to mention glittering wood moss, spring turf moss...

(He exits and Musselbaum and the Ladies-In-Waiting follow, carrying all the baskets.)

BERNARD

C'mon Skye, I'll race you!

SUNNYSKYE

Sure...but...well, I beat you every time we raced around your uncle's moat when we were kids. And...I also won the drawbridge jump three years ago...and last Solstice, remind me again who won the gold in the hundred-meter fairy toss?

BERNARD

You did. *(he winces at weight on his foot)* Ow...is there ice at the palace? My toe is swelling.

SUNNYSKYE

Oh, Bernard, I'm so...

BERNARD

Ha ha... see ya!

(He races out, with a head start, with a basket of cucumbers.)

SUNNYSKYE

Oh, you are so clever.

(She races behind him. End Scene.)

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